GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:330
ANSWERED ON:19.07.2016
Loss of Cotton Crops
Maadam Smt. Poonamben Hematbhai

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are reports of damage to cotton crops in the country during the last three years and the current year and if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) the details of relief amount/compensation sanctioned and released by the Union Government and State Governments to the affected cotton growers, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to prevent the pest attack on cotton crops?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a) & (b): During Kharif, 2015 whitefly infestation was reported in cotton crop especially from the eight cotton growing districts of Fazilka, Bathinda, Mansa, Shri Muktsar Sahib, Sangrur, Barnala, Faridkot and Moga in Punjab. As per the figures provided by the Punjab State, 3.32 lakh hectare area of cotton was infested. In Haryana, special girdawari was ordered to assess the losses due to whitefly infestation. No major losses on this account were reported from any other cotton growing State in the country. Further, pink bollworm attack was also reported from Saurashtra region of Gujarat, parts of Karnataka, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. As per the information given by the State Govt. of Punjab a sum of Rs. 643.58 crores have been released as compensation.

(c): Advisories have been issued to Cotton white fly affected States like Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan to maintain close vigil. State Government have been sensitized to organize regular meetings of State Pest Surveillance & Advisory Units (SPSAU) and District Pest Surveillance & Advisory Units (DPSAU) in order to monitor the pest and diseases of different crops. States have also been advised regularly through video conference to ensure timely availability of pesticides and bio-pesticides approved & recommended by CIB&RC for the control of pests and farmers are advised through extension machinery to use only recommended varieties / hybrids, dosage of fertilizers and pesticides as per recommendation and label claims.

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